AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) In an apparatus for transporting cylindrical objects (2), in which

~~at least~~ **only** two generally parallel transporting shafts **with plane surfaces** (3, 4), rotatable in the same direction axially perpendicular to the transporting direction of the objects (2); and in which the objects (2) while being transported rest with their cylindrical wall on one shaft (4) and with a face end on a respective adjacent shaft (3); ~~the improvement~~ wherein

the radial spacing (10) and diameters (8, 9) of the respective shafts (3, 4) cooperate to provide a predeterminable angular position (β)**, other than zero,** of the objects (2) relative to the plane which contains the axes of the shafts (3, 4), and wherein the rotation of the shafts (3, 4) effect an intrinsic rotation (6) of the objects (2).

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein

the shafts (3, 4) are inclined downwardly at a predetermined angle (α) to the transporting direction (5).

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising

a worm gear (11) applied to at least one shaft (3, 4) for adjusting the spacings of the transported cylindrical objects (2) during transport.

13. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising

a worm gear (11) applied to at least one shaft (3, 4) for adjusting the spacings of the transported cylindrical objects (2) during transport.

14. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein

the respective radial spacing (10) and/or the respective diameters (8, 9) of the shafts (3, 4) is selected as a function of the geometrical dimensions of the cylindrical objects (2) by ascertaining the path (11) of the center of gravity as a function of the angular position (β) of the respective object (2).

15. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein

the respective radial spacing (10) and/or the respective diameters (8, 9) of the shafts (3, 4) is selected as a function of the geometrical dimensions of the cylindrical objects (2) by ascertaining the path (11) of the center of gravity as a function of the angular position (β) of the respective object (2).

16. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein

the respective radial spacing (10) and/or the respective diameters (8, 9) of the shafts (3, 4) is selected as a function of the geometrical dimensions of the cylindrical objects (2) by ascertaining the path (11) of the center of gravity as a function of the angular position (β) of the respective object (2).

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein

the respective radial spacing (10) and/or the respective diameters (8, 9) of the shafts (3, 4) is selected as a function of the geometrical dimensions of the cylindrical objects (2) by ascertaining the path (11) of the center of gravity as a function of the angular position (β) of the respective object (2).

18. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[14]] **10**, wherein the objects (2) are ~~bottle-like~~ **open-ended** containers, and wherein the effect of the geometric design of the **container open-end** ~~bottle-like opening~~ region as well as the diameter (12) and the length of the respective ~~objects~~ **containers** (2) are taken into account in determining the radial spacing (10) and the diameters of the shafts (3, 4).

19. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the objects (2) are ~~bottle-like~~ **open-ended** containers, and wherein the effect of the geometric design of the **container open-end** ~~bottle-like opening~~ region as well as the diameter (12) and the length of the respective

~~objects~~ **containers** (2) are taken into account in determining the radial spacing (10) and the diameters of the shafts (3, 4).

20. **(Currently amended)** The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the objects (2) are ~~bottle-like~~ **open-ended** containers, and wherein the effect of the geometric design of the **container open-end** ~~bottle-like opening~~ region as well as the diameter (12) and the length of the respective ~~objects~~ **containers** (2) are taken into account in determining the radial spacing (10) and the diameters of the shafts (3, 4).

21. **(Currently amended)** The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the objects (2) are ~~bottle-like~~ **open-ended** containers, and wherein the effect of the geometric design of the **container open-end** ~~bottle-like opening~~ region as well as the diameter (12) and the length of the respective ~~objects~~ **containers** (2) are taken into account in determining the radial spacing (10) and the diameters of the shafts (3, 4).

22. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the articles (2) are put into a substantially vertical position by a unilateral thickening of the shaft (4), on which the object (2) rests with its cylindrical wall.

23. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the articles (2) are put into a substantially vertical position by a unilateral thickening of the shaft (4), on which the object (2) rests with its cylindrical wall.

24. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the articles (2) are put into a substantially vertical position by a unilateral thickening of the shaft (4), on which the object (2) rests with its cylindrical wall.

25. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the object is a fillable container (2).

26. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the object is a fillable container (2).

27. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the object is a fillable container (2).

28. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the transport apparatus (1) is disposed in a nearly closed treatment chamber (20) for the objects (2).

29. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein a plasma source (30) for generating electromagnetic oscillations to sterilize the objects (2) is disposed in or on the treatment chamber (20).